



## HEALTH ALERT

### Workers in Highway/Road Construction Zones Must Wear High-Visibility Garments

Motor vehicle-related incidents are the leading cause of work-related fatalities in the United States. Of approximately 5,700 fatalities reported annually by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 35% are associated with motor vehicles.

From 2002-2008, approximately:

- 1354 workers died each year from crashes on public highways.
- 324 workers died each year in crashes that occurred off the highway or on industrial premises.
- 358 pedestrian workers died each year as a result of being struck by a motor vehicle.



Class 2 ANSI/ISEA 107-2004

High visibility is one of the most prominent needs for workers who perform tasks near moving vehicles or equipment. The need to be seen by those who operate vehicles or equipment is recognized as a critical issue for worker safety. The sooner a worker in or near the path of travel is seen, the more time the operator has to avoid an accident.

The Department of Public Health strongly recommends that anyone who performs work in, or as part of their job passes through, areas where any type of vehicle traffic is present protect themselves with high-visibility apparel.

OSHA has issued a clarification (revised letter dated 8/5/09) that all construction employees working in highway/road construction work zones must be protected from public and construction traffic by wearing high-visibility garments, regardless of whether the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)* mandates their use.

High-visibility safety apparel is personal protective safety clothing that is intended to provide visibility during both daytime and nighttime usage and meets the performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of the ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 publication entitled “American National Standard for High-Visibility Safety Apparel and Headwear.” The Federal Highway Administration [final rule 23 CFR Part 634: Worker Visibility] defines a worker, in part, as a person on foot whose duties place them within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway, such as highway construction and maintenance forces, survey crews, and utility crews.

Certain work conditions will demand specific features of the high-visibility apparel. For example, breakaway features, Velcro® attachments at shoulder and side seams, for conditions where entanglement of the apparel in equipment or surroundings is a potential hazard. Work locations where heat-stress is a concern may require breathable and wicking apparel materials.

Further information regarding acceptable conditions of high-visibility apparel can be found in the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) document “*High-Visibility Safety Apparel in Highway Work Zones*” by visiting [www.atssa.com](http://www.atssa.com)

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## Classification of High-Visibility Garments: How to choose the right protection for the job!

	<u>Class 2 Garments</u>	<u>Class 3 Garments</u>
Background material.....	775 in <sup>2</sup> (0.50 m <sup>2</sup> )	1240 in <sup>2</sup> (0.80 m <sup>2</sup> )
Retroreflective or combined-performance material used in conjunction with background material.....	201 in <sup>2</sup> (0.13 m <sup>2</sup> )	310 in <sup>2</sup> (0.20 m <sup>2</sup> )
Minimum width of reflective material.....	1.375 in (35 mm)	2 in (50 mm)

### Class 2 Garments

- For workers who require greater visibility in work zones
- When work backgrounds are complex
- When tasks divert attention from approaching vehicle traffic

### Class 3 Garments

- For workers on foot and vehicle operators whose high task loads place them in danger
- When the wearer must be conspicuous through the full range of body motions at a minimum distance of approaching vehicle traffic of 1,280 feet
- When the wearer must be indentified as a person rather than an object

### Additional Resources:

U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)

<http://www.osha.gov>

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/motorvehicle/>

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/index.asp>

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